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MINUTES OF THE SEVENTY-NINTH MEETING OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON
EXPLOITATION OF FOREIGN LANGUAGE PUBLICATIONS

9 November 1956

Present

Members: Royal Wald, State
Richard Bauer, Army
John Shearer, Navy

Consultants:

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1. The 79th meeting of the Exploitation Subcommittee convened at 1400 hours. The minutes of the 78th meeting were approved after a comment by Mr. Bauer, Army, that his suggestion contained in the last sentence, fifth paragraph, page 2, concerned all FDD reports on the Iron Curtain countries, and not solely the economic report on Eastern Europe.

2. The Acting Chairman, [REDACTED] referring to Subcommittee recommendations at the 78th meeting regarding the Eastern Europe program, announced that the following actions had been taken, or were in process of being taken:

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a. FDD will review, revise, and republish its previously-issued "Foreign Language Serial Publications Exploited by Foreign Documents Division." This publication will be made available to the intelligence community as soon as FDD can determine what publications it is reasonably sure to receive from its 1957 subscriptions. FDD analysts will then indicate any titles not received in any report period. [REDACTED] noted that this was a counter-proposal to the request for a listing of sources with each report, but explained that a listing of sources used in a report would in no way be indicative of the sources actually screened for the report. Conversely, a listing of sources screened, including those in which no pertinent information was found, would be a laborious and time-consuming operation for FDD and the reproduction facilities, detracting from the exploitation effort. He suggested, however, that analysts could be informed in the reports themselves of any change in FDD's publication coverage, resulting from extended non-receipt of a publication.

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b. FDD has ceased exploiting information from emigre publications for inclusion in scheduled reports on Eastern Europe.

c. The topical arrangement of the political and sociological report on Eastern Europe has been abandoned. Beginning in December 1956, basic information on political-sociological developments in Eastern Europe will be published quarterly in individual country reports.

d. Efforts are under way to eliminate unnecessary attribution to source in FDD reports.

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██████████ then requested Subcommittee comment concerning the usefulness of the FDD Summary on "World Press Summary of International Communist Developments."

Mr. Wald said he was not yet apprised of State Department opinion on the report.

Mr. Bauer reported that the format of the report was roughly what Army desired. As for content, instances in which the complete text of the statements of top Communists or fellow travelers is given are of particular usefulness for checking purposes. Coverage of Communist activities in Africa was desired in as much scope and depth as was possible, Mr. Bauer said. He noted that, while the report appeared to be of primary interest to Army analysts concerned with Europe and Africa, the Far East analysts also found it to be of value.

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██████████ commented that CIA interest in the report appeared limited to OCI.

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Mr. ~~Chandler~~ found no Navy interest in the report excepting for occasional background information.

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██████████ reported a substantial DD/P interest in the report which had been communicated to FDD directly before the present meeting convened. In view of the expressed interest, the report will be continued.

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██████████ reported that Air Force has called to the attention of the Subcommittee a proposal by the Reference Department of the Library of Congress to properly catalog the estimated 250,000 captured Japanese documents at a cost of \$1,500,000 extended over a period of years. ██████████ made an off-the-record review of the captured Japanese documents. It was his opinion that the collection was not worth either the effort or the expense in view of other materials available. He recommended, however, that a new look be taken at the documents before any studied recommendation be made to the Subcommittee.

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3. Review of the Far East Program

Mr. Bauer reported that Army analysts' reaction to the Far East program was generally favorable. The military report on China is still regarded as the most useful report emanating from CIA on China. He noted that the analysts had expressed interest in the translations of Chinese laws pertaining to the military. FDD economic reporting on China is likewise very useful, but the Army Technical Services considered that a disproportionate amount of effort was placed on plans, budgets, and the like, and not enough on the implementation and results of plans and budgets.

Army analysts believed that USSR and East European publications might occasionally contain unique and worthwhile information on China and urged that such information be exploited and included in the China report. Mr. Bauer also reported a need for more information on Outer Mongolia from any available sources.

Army analysts were pleased with the work done by the Hong Kong Press Monitoring Service but felt that further efforts at coordination to avoid duplication would be of value.

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In comparison with the China report, Mr. Bauer concluded, the reports on North Korea and North Vietnam are of considerably lesser value.

Mr. Wald reported that State Department analysts, with the exception of the Biographic analysts on China, thought very highly of the FDD product. The Biographic analysts, however, were in the process of planning a meeting with FDD to discuss their problems.

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Mr. Wald had several specific queries on FDD exploitation of Chinese sources which he directed toward [REDACTED]. He inquired whether FDD maintained an index to important articles translated from the Chinese. He was informed that FDD did so in the Document Exploitation (DEX) File.

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[REDACTED] reported uniformly favorable comment from CIA analysts on the FDD Far East program. He added that analysts' relations with FDD personnel are generally very good, and that the most satisfied analysts are those who maintain the closest relations with FDD.

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[REDACTED] noted that information produced by FDD on party membership in North Korea has been unique; and said that there is a continuing need for more information on personalities at the provincial level.

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[REDACTED] representing [REDACTED] of Analysis Division, ORR/CIA, stated the opinion that periodical sources yield more information of value than the newspapers, but suggested that, because of the time and effort required to exploit fully a periodical article, greater selectivity be employed in determining articles to be exploited. [REDACTED] commented further that there is an existing need for basic economic data on North Korea as far back as 1946.

Mr. Shearer, representing Navy, commented on the lack of naval information in FDD reports, which he assumed was lacking also in the Chinese publications. He noted, however, that FDD is providing useful information on shipbuilding, and ship identifications and movements. The reporting on North Korea and North Vietnam is satisfactory, he said.

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[REDACTED] speaking for NSA, reported NSA's general satisfaction with the Far East program. The China report was considered quite valuable; the reports on North Korea and North Vietnam to a lesser degree.

Mr. Bauer, speaking for Air Force, stated that the program is satisfactory, useful, and requires no particular revision.

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[REDACTED] stated that there are two additional developments of interest to the committee. FDD has been trying for any number of years to establish proper liaison arrangement with HKPMS. Within the last few months a great deal of progress has been made in that line. On 1 July 1956 FDI began informing HKPMS in advance of any lengthy summaries or translations of Chinese Communist newspaper and periodical articles to be published by FDD. FDD now receives from HKPMS the advanced copies of their work and also an advance list of translations in process and planned from the periodicals. This cooperation between HKPMS and FDD will probably eliminate duplication in all except short items, which have never been a serious problem.

FDD has discontinued exploitation operations on Japan, but will continue to service specific requests. This decision was made because of the coverage given by both military and State Department activities in Japan and because of the increasingly important research material appearing in Japanese sources on China and the Communist Bloc in general. It was felt that the FDD effort should be devoted to these latter materials.

4. The meeting adjourned at 1520. The agenda for the next meeting on 30 November 1956 will be a review of the Scientific and Technical program. The meeting will be held at 1400 hours in Room 1121 M Building.

[REDACTED]
Acting Secretary, CIA

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